conservative treatment and is still considered experimental for disc decompression as an alternative to other surgical or percutaneous procedures. Enough literature on the number of cases treated by the said technique is still not available in the western as well as Indian population. Few studies in last 5 years reported sucess rates of 43-80% in a follow up period of upto 2 years. There is a need to collect adequate clinical data from Indian patients outlining its efficacy as compared to other similar techniques before the system is considered for adoption.

**Availability of store manual at CGHS dispensaries**

1718. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for non-availability of CGHS store manual and compendium in the dispensaries/medical store depots/hospitals of modern system of medicine and dispensaries/units/store depots/hospital of ISM&H under CGHS, which is an essential part of various medical and para-medical staff for directions/guidelines; and

(b) by when Government would provide the CGHS compendium and store manual to all CGHS organisations in Delhi and outside Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (d) In so far as Central Government Health Scheme is concerned, CGHS has already supplied compendium to all the dispensaries and CGHS Medical Store Depot, to follow the Store Manual of M.S.O.

**T.B. Cases in Delhi**

1719. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an alarming rise in TB cases in Delhi;

(b) if so, what is the estimated number of TB cases reported in the city during 1999, as compared to TB cases in the previous year;

(c) what is the number of TB cases reported since beginning of the year 2000, till date;

(d) what are the main causes identified for the rise in TB cases; and

(e) what measures are contemplated by Government to fight the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of TB cases reported in the city during 1999 as compared to TB cases in the previous year is as under:—

| Year | No. of TB cases |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 39426 |
| 1999 | 20984 |

(c) The number of TB cases reported since beginning of the year 2000 is 3087.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) To achieve a cure rate of about 85% Revised National TB Control Programme is being implemented in the whole of Delhi. For this purpose, Delhi has been divided into 14 project areas. Under the Programme, treatment and diagnostic facilities, including supply of anti-TB drugs are provided, free of cost, to the TB patients. To ensure availability of drugs for the entire course of treatment, drugs are procured and supplied in patient-wise boxes. For convenience of patients for quality diagnosis, Binocular Microscopes have been provided to microscopy centres which have been opened for every one lakh population. DOTS centres, where directly observed treatment is given, are being further decentralized.

**Curbing the Population Explosion**

1720. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 50 years of family planning programmes had failed to curb the population explosion, with India adding another 15 million persons to the country each year;

(b) whether Government are still in the process of formulating a National Population Policy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) For the country as a whole the achievements under the family welfare programme have been quite substantial. Some States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Goa have already achieved